

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 36 and 37 have been added, and are now presented in this application. Those claims correspond to Claims 47 and 48, respectively, withdrawn from consideration in related Application No. 10/235,811.

The specification has been amended.

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 based upon Japanese Priority Application Nos. 6-313440, filed December 16, 1994, 6-314420, filed December 19, 1994, 7-004581, filed January 17, 1995, 7-156321, filed June 22, 1995, and 7-320927, filed December 11, 1995, and respectfully request acknowledgment of this claim and of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed November 25, 1996, in grandparent Application No. 08/572,113.

STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP

The present application (including, inter alia, the claimed subject matter) and U.S. Patent 5,569,974 (*Morikawa et al.*) were, at the time of the invention of the present application, owned by Canon Kabushiki Kaisha.

Accordingly, *Morikawa et al.* does not qualify as a reference against the claims of the present application.

Favorable consideration and early passage to issue of this divisional application are respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to MPEP § 609, Applicants understand that the Examiner will, as part of his examination of this application, consider the art of record in the parent application (and the grandparent application). A form PTO-1449 is enclosed, citing, inter alia, the art of record in the parent application, but, pursuant to MPEP § 609, no copies of such art are provided; should the Examiner wish to have such submitted, however, Applicants will gladly do so upon request.

English translations and/or English Abstracts of at least some of the listed non-English documents were of record in the parent application, and the Examiner is respectfully referred to those translations/Abstracts with regard to relevance for the corresponding non-English documents.

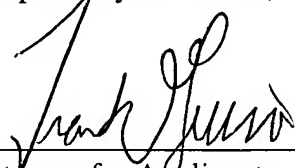
Applicants also direct the Examiner's attention to the Office Actions (dated March 18, 2003 and September 8, 2003) issued in related Application No. 10/235,811. One copy of each Office Action is attached.

U.S. Patent 6,169,356 issued from U.S. Application No. 08/264,497, of record in the parent application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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